

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02303 070103Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1823

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02303

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: AMBASSADOR MCHENRY MEETS WITH SOUTH
AFRICAN CHARGE

1. SOUTH AFRICAN CHARGE ADRIAAN EKSTEEN, AT HIS OWN
REQUEST, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MCHENRY PM JUNE 6 TO HEAR
MCHENRY'S ASSESSMENT OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA
AND NAMIBIA. AMB MCHENRY EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD TRIED
TO EMPHASIZE THREE POINTS TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH
AFRICA AND NAMIBIA:

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PAGE 02 USUN N 02303 070103Z

A) THE RAID ON CASSINGA DEALT A SEVERE BLOW TO OUR EFFORTS;

B) AS A RESULT OF THE RAID, THERE HAS BEEN A DELAY IN THE
SETTLEMENT EFFORT AND FURTHER NEGATIVE POLITICAL, MILITARY
OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTS WOULD COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS EVEN
MORE.

C) THE LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED TO GET THINGS BACK ON TRACK
WILL DEPEND TO SOME EXTENT ON SOUTH AFRICA'S WILLINGNESS

TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO OVERCOME THE SUSPICION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTIONS AND MOTIVES.

2. MCHENRY STATED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO FOCUS ON WHAT HE THOUGHT TO BE A MUTUAL OBJECTIVE OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA RATHER THAN TRYING TO DEFLECT THE DISCUSSION INTO PERSONALTIES. IN PARTICULAR, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT AMB MCHENRY TRAVELS AND SPEAKS ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT HIS VIEWS REFLECT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES. MCHENRY NOTED THAT THE SAG'S PERSONAL ATTACKS CONTINUED EVEN INTO TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS OF BOTHA'S PARLIAMENTARY SPEECH. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVED ANY OF HIS STATEMENTS TO BE INACCURATE, THEY SHOULD CITE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES. HE THEN HANDED ECKSTEEN VERBATIM ACCOUNT OF JOBURG PRESS CONFERENCE NOTING THAT HE HAD PROMISED TO TRANSMIT THE TEXT TO FOURIE. ECKSTEEN EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE TEXT WAS OF A MEETING WITH NUMEROUS REPORTERS INSTEAD OF ONLY WITH SAUNDERS AS IMPLIED IN SABC VERSION OF TRANSCRIPT. ECKSTEEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PRESS HAD WRONGLY REPORTED THAT SAG HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED PRIOR TO MCHENRY TRIP.

3. MCHENRY WENT ON TO DESCRIBE HIS TRIP AND HIS IMPRESSIONS IN SOME DETAIL ALONG THE LINES OF HIS REPORTING
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PAGE 03 USUN N 02303 070103Z

CALBES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE TASK OF ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT IS A VERY DIFFICULT ONE BUT THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO DO ALL WE CAN TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. IN THAT REGARD, MCHENRY INFORMED ECKSTEEN THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD MET LAST WEEKEND WITH PRESIDENT NETO AND THAT KAUNDA IS NOW ACTIVELY WORKING TO SET UP A FRONTLINE SUMMIT SOON. KAUNDA'S EFFORTS SEEM TO BE PROCEEDING WELL, BUT EVEN IF THERE IS A SUMMIT, THERE CAN BE NO CERTAINTY AS TO WHAT IT WILL LEAD TO.

4. AMB MCHENRY STRESSED THAT THE DELICATE NATURE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION CONCERNING NAMIBIA AND THE DEVASTATING IMPACT THAT ANY FUTURE NEGATIVE ACTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA'S PART COULD HAVE. HE UNDERLINED THE FACT THAT FOUR AND PROBABLY FIVE OF THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS NOW SUPPORT OUR PROPOSAL. THOSE PRESIDENTS ARE STILL SKEPTICAL OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTIONS, HOWEVER, EVEN IN THE WAKE OF CASSINGA THEY ARE, NEVERTHELESS, TRYING TO REASSURE THE MEMBERS OF SWAPO WHO ARE EVEN MORE SKEPTICAL; AND NEGATIVE ACTS ON SOUTH AFRICA'S PART COULD UNDERMINE THE FRONTLINES' ROLE.

5. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING EKSTEEN LISTENED CAREFULLY AND TOOK EXTENSIVE NOTES. HE ASSURED MCHENRY THAT HIS VIEWS WOULD BE CAREFULLY REPORTED AND, WITH REGARD TO MCHENRY'S WARNING ABOUT "ANY FUTURE NEGATIVE ACTIONS", EKSTEEN REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE MESSAGE. AS HE HAD NOTED TO OTHER CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS ECKSTEEN EXPRESSED HELPLESSNESS IN ASSURING THAT HIS REPORTS WOULD BE HEEDDED. SPECIFICALLY, HE NOTED THAT UPON HEARING OF JUDGE STEYN'S NAIVE REMARKS ON UN CONSIDERATION OF NAMIBIA, HE HAD CALLED JOHN VIALI TO EXPRESS HIS DISMAY AND TO ASK IF THE AG HAD READ THE REPORTS. YOUNG

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